(a) whether the University Grants Commission has completed the process of selecting of new colleges in 373 backward districts; if so, the number of new colleges likely to be opened in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Bihar and by when;

(b) whether the new colleges would be opened as centres of excellence;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on each new college and the percentage of expenditure to be shared by the Centre and the States;

(d) whether this matter was discussed in the conference of the Education Ministers held in July, 2008; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the new colleges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In the XI Five Year Plan, a scheme for setting up new degree colleges of excellence in 374 districts identified by the UGC on the basis of lower than the national Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER). The number of such districts in each State is as follow:- Chhattisgarh (15), Madhya Pradesh (39), Uttarakhand (2), Orissa (18), Himachal Pradesh (4), Haryana (7), Punjab (13) and Bihar (25).

(c) The capital cost per college is estimated to be Rs.8.00 crores, of which the Central Share is proposed to be one-third, and the balance to be met by State Government/ State University either on its own or with not-for-profit private participation.

(d) Yes, Sir. Some States felt that Central assistance could be routed through the UGC to the State Universities for setting up constituent colleges of such universities, while some other States were in favour of assistance to be released to the State Governments as a Centrally sponsored scheme.

(e) Establishment of colleges is spread over the XIth Plan period, upto 2012.

Suicides due to exam stress

182. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as per the record of National Crime Records Bureau, 648 students committed suicide in Uttar Pradesh due to exam related stress;

(b) whether Government is aware that cases of suicide are increasing among 10th and 12th standard students in all parts of country;

(c) if so, what has been done by Government to save these young and precious lives;

(d) whether the Ministry has done any study on stress level of students and suggested any means; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As per the information received from the Government of Utter Pradesh, the State Crime Record Bureau, Uttar Pradesh had recorded 134 cases of suicide by students in 2007 attributed to poor performance in examinations.

(b) Whereas reports on cases of students committing suicide have appeared in newspapers from time to time, there could be many reasons including examination related stress or other socio-economic or psychological factors. The data on exact number of suicides and whether such cases are increasing among 10th and 12th standard students are not available in this Ministry.

(c) to (e) Although no specific study has been conducted on the stress level of students. Government of India recognizes the need to take measures to reduce the examination related stress among students. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have taken several measures to reduce the examination related stress among students. National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 recommends measures like reduction of curriculum load, emphasis on comprehension and application of knowledge, focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation, emphasis on testing of competencies rather than rote memory, making examination more flexible, provision of guidance and counselling in schools, and over all, to make learning child-centric. Central Board of Secondary Education has taken several steps including introduction of continuous and comprehensive evaluation, reconstruction of examination system, giving higher weightage to practicals and internal assessment, conducting compartmental examination soon after declaration of results and provision of counselling services to students.

Censure notices to Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers

183. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Kendriya Vidyalayas has sent censure notices to several teachers because some of their students did not fare well in the Board examinations this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a teacher from Delhi has been chastised for lack of devotion to duty because 95 per cent of her class passed the subject in the Board, as against the average pass percentage for that subject is 96 per cent;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government proposes to withdraw censure notices from such teachers and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) 158 teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas have been censured by the disciplinary authority in Kendriya Vidyalayas Sangathan (KVS) on the ground of unsatisfactory performance in the Board examinations by students.